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Examiner: M. Theisen

For: **METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING PELLETS FORM HEAVY HYDROCARBON LIQUID**

**ATTACHMENT B - CLEAN COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 14 as follows:

- B1
1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for producing asphaltene pellets comprising:
    - a) flow means that supplies hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet;
    - b) pellet producing means that breaks up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit and produces pellets of asphaltene;
    - c) a reservoir or container that collects said pellets of asphaltene together with some fluid producing a slurry; and
    - d) transporting means that transports said slurry to the required location.

B2

6. (Twice Amended) A method for producing asphaltene pellets comprising the steps of:

- a) supplying hot asphaltene through a conduit to its outlet;
- b) breaking up the liquid stream of said hot asphaltene exiting the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium to produce pellets of asphaltene;
- c) collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry; and
- d) transporting said slurry to a required location.

B3

7. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim 6 wherein the



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~~step of collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some fluid producing a slurry is carried out by collecting said pellets of asphaltene in a reservoir together with some liquid water producing a heavy hydrocarbon or asphaltene-water slurry.~~

*B<sup>3</sup>*  
*cost.* *b b C<sup>2</sup>* *8*  
10. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim *7* wherein said step of breaking up the liquid stream of hot asphaltene flowing out of the outlet of said conduit using a pellet producing medium so that pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced.

*S.*  
11. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim *10* wherein the step of spraying a fluid so that the fluid contacts the asphaltene exiting said outlet of the conduit and pellets of asphaltene are produced is carried out by spraying liquid water.

*B<sup>4</sup>*  
*g.*  
12. (Twice Amended) A method according to claim *7* including grinding said asphaltene pellets and transporting the grinded asphaltene pellets to a location.